

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 041375 TOSEC 040130

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION TO SECSTATE INFO GUATEMALA BELIZE USUN NY
FEB 20, 1976 FROM LONDON

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDTN 02732

DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR ASSISTANT
SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. L1652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, GT' UK, GH. OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJ: BELIZE : PRESIDENT LAUGERUD'S PLANS TO DISCUSS ISSUE

WITH SECRETARY

REF: GUATEMALA 1334

1. DURING FERUARY 20 CONSULTATION SESSION WITH DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS, FCO OFFICIALS MADE THE POINTS
BELOW REGARDING BRITISH TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM BELIZE.
FCO HAD LEARNED OF LAUGERUD'S STATEMENT THAT UK HAD NOT
REDUCED ITS GARRISON, AND OF HIS INTENTION TO DISCUSS

THIS SUBJECT WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER (REFTEL).

(A) BRITISH WILL WITHDRAW ONE COMPANY OF TROOPS FROM
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BELIZE IN MID-MARCH. IT IS SOLELY A GESTURE OF GOOD FAITH

TO THE GUATEMALANS. THE GUATEMALANS WERE INFORMED OF THIS
DECISION ON FEBRUARY 2.

(B) BRITAIN MAINTAINS TWO FRIGATES IN THE CARIBBEAN. ONLY
ONE VESSEL AT ANY ONE TIME PATROLS BELIZIAN WATERS,
ALTHOUGH THE SHIPS FREQUENTLY EXCHANGE STATIONS.

2. IF LAUGERUD RAISES BELIZE WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER,

THE BRITISH HOPE THAT THE SECRETARY WILL ENCOURAGE THE
GUATEMALANS TO TAKE THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS
"MOST SERIOUSLY".

SPIERS UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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